equipment considered necessary for modernisation and cost reduction, etc.

Role of N. G. Os. in protecting the consumers

1833. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to encourage non-Governmental organisations to take a more prominent role in protecting the consumers;

(b) if so, the details of such efforts;

(c) whether N.G.Os. will be encouraged to play a more active role in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) Government has taken a number of measures to encourage non-governmental organisations to play an effective role in protecting the consumers. These measures include amendment of various legislations such as prevention of Food Adulteration Act, etc., to empower registered consumer organisations to file complaints in the courts; grant of financial assistance; giving representation to non-governmental organisations on various Councils/Committees constituted to protect the interests of consumtrs institution of National awards for consumer organisation; prtnting of literature and its free distribution; publishing of quarterly journal "Upbhokta Jagaran" and its free distribution to consumer organisations; conducting of training programmes etc. These measures apply to non governmental organisations working in Andhra Pradesh also.

Expansion of PDS to Urban areas

1834. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to consider the expansion of the Public Distribution System to the poor living in the urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken to implement the new schemes in the urban areas for the poorer sections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) As per the present policy of the Central Government, coverage under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is universal in nature. All persons, including the poor living in the Urban areas are entitled to the benefits of the PDS. The Advisory Council on PDS had set up a Committee of Ministers from State Governments in Marrh, 1993, to formulate recommendations regarding a National Policy on PDS focussing on the need to allocate larger and more meaningful quantities to the really needy and deserving sections of society. The recommendations made by Committee of Ministers included a suggestion that at least 20 kgs. of foodgrains per family per month shoulid be made available to every family of the vulnerable population. The report of the Committee of Minister was considered by the Advisory Council on PDS in its meettng held in September, 1993. The Advisory Council on PDS was of the opinion that the matter required further consultation with State Governments through the forum of the National Development Council. Government has so far not taken any decision in the matter.

1835. [*Transferred to 16th March*, 1994.]

Probing the authenticity of claims by consumers in respect of consumer Products.

1836. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take initiative in the interest of the consumers to probe into the authenticity of

claims made in respect of consumer products through advertisements in the public media including T.V. etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government against the manufacturers of the products which do not come up to the claims made in such advertisements and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The subject matter falls within the purview of number of enactments like the monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1960 Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954, Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the Code for Commercial Advertising.

Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, making a misleading claim or a false representation, falls within the definition of an "unfair trade practice" against which a consumer can file a complaint and get redressal.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has formulated a Code for Commercial Advertisements to regulate advertisements through Doordarshan and All India Radio under which these organisations are empowered to ask for evidence to substantiate the claims made by advertisers.

The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution is also supporting projects undertaken by voluntary organisations on "comparative testing" of consumer products. Comparative testing is a process by which consumer products of various manufacturers are tested and graded against specific parameters of quality and performance including claims made. Such findings are disseminated to consumers to enable them to make the correct choice.

आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को चुस्त बनाने की योजना

1837. **श्री राम नरेश यादव :** क्या **नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार की आठवीं पंच-वर्षीय योजना के दौरान सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को चुस्त बनाने की कोई योजना है, और

(ख) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से वितरित किए जाने के लिए कितने खाद्यान्न की आवश्यकता है ?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को मजबूत तथा सुप्रवाही बनाना एक निरन्तर चलती रहने वाली प्रक्रिया है । केन्द्रीय तथा राज्य सरकारें आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना अवधि के दौरान सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के कार्य में सुधार लाने के लिए निरन्तर प्रयास कर रही हैं।

(ख) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिए वितरण के लिए अपेक्षित खाद्यान्न की मात्रा समग्र उत्पादन, खुले बाजार में उपलब्ध मात्रा तथा देश में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में खाद्यान्नों की कीमतों पर निर्भर करते हुए प्रत्येक वर्ष अलग-अलग हो सकती है। वर्ष 1993 के दौरान सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिए चावल तथा गेहूं की उठाई गई कुल मात्रा लगभग 140 लाख मी० टन थी ।

खाद्य तेलों की उपयोग की गई क्षमता

1838. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**

चौधरी हरि सिंह :

क्या **नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :